

# NARCOTICS

Narcotics includes all incidents in which the police made an arrest, complaint, or warrant for the possession or distribution of illegal narcotics. Narcotics statistics do not include all instances of narcotics use or distribution; they only reflect those cases that are known to the police.

**74 reported in the first nine months of 2002 • 110 reported in the first nine months of 2003**

## Geographic Breakdown of Drug Incidents

Neighborhood	3rd Q. 2001	3rd Q. 2002	3rd Q. 2003
East Cambridge	13	11	20
MIT	2	2	1
Inman/Harrington	15	3	19
Area 4	17	10	19
Cambridgeport	9	11	14
Mid-Cambridge	14	6	3
Riverside	18	13	13
Agassiz	0	2	1
Peabody	9	2	6
West Cambridge	7	3	2
North Cambridge	11	7	6
Cambridge Highlands	3	1	1
Strawberry Hill	0	3	2
Unknown	2	0	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>110</b>

Cambridge Police received 110 reports of drug activity during the first nine months of 2003. Of these reports, all but eight resulted in at least one arrest. In total there were 163 arrests for various drug violations. Fifteen drug incidents occurred after a routine search of individuals arrested for other offenses revealed illegal contraband.

Thanks in part to the combined teamwork of Cambridge citizens, Patrol Officers, and the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) of the Cambridge Police Department, drugs and the individuals responsible for selling them continue to be taken off our streets. Observations made by Cambridge citizens and Patrol Officers are valuable in the fight against the presence of narcotics in our community. Many times a citizen's complaint is not filed as a report, but rather relayed to the proper officers in order to conduct the appropriate investigation. The

Special Investigations Unit, through surveillance, investigations and the information provided by citizens, continually works to combat the proliferation of organized narcotic activities. In one of the major arrests in Cambridge this year, SIU undercover detectives met with a prospective seller of ecstasy. When the transaction was complete the subject was arrested and over 1,000 tablets of ecstasy and over \$3,000 were confiscated. Another drug incident resulted in the arrest of two individuals in possession of 86 bags of heroin. In September SIU detectives netted over \$100,000 in drug money as well as numerous bags of marijuana from a Cambridge residence.

A very dangerous and increasingly more popular drug in the Northeast in the recent past has been heroin. Cambridge has seen 18 incidents in which the highly addictive drug was taken off the streets. The majority of narcotic arrests however continue to involve the possession, use, or intent to distribute marijuana. In fact 54 cases involved marijuana, also known as "pot" or "weed". Other drug incidents included: 36 involving cocaine/crack; 5 involving prescription drugs; and 4 involving possession of hypodermic needles. Possession of drugs was the most common offense leading to arrest as it involved 66 incidents, followed by possession with the intent to distribute with 39.

## Drug Tip Hotline

*The Special Investigations Unit employs an anonymous Drug Tip Hotline to gain intelligence information from the community. The Unit can be reached by calling **617-349-3359**. Generally, you will be greeted by a taped message instructing you to leave very detailed information. **You do not have to provide any personal information and all information is held in confidence.***

## Know Your Narcotics

**Note:** The following information was gathered from the following sources: <http://www.drugfreeamerica.com>; [Massachusetts Drug Threat Assessment](#), published by the National Drug Intelligence Center of the U.S. Department of Justice; <http://www.erowid.org>; <http://www.gazettenet.com/12192002/news/2941.htm>; and [http://www.Townonline.com/Lincoln/news/local\\_regional/lin\\_newljdrugs12242002.htm](http://www.Townonline.com/Lincoln/news/local_regional/lin_newljdrugs12242002.htm).

**Heroin** (AKA: dope, smack, horse, Jude, brown sugar, junk, black tar)

Heroin is a highly addictive drug derived from morphine, which is obtained from the opium poppy. It is a "downer" that affects the brain's pleasure systems and interferes with the ability to feel pain. Heroin can be used in many ways, depending on user preference and drug purity. Heroin is fast acting, especially when

injected or smoked. Injected heroin reaches the brain in 15 to 30 seconds; smoked heroin in 7 seconds. The high from heroin is experienced as intense pleasure. Once a person begins using heroin, they quickly develop a tolerance to the drug and need more and more to get the same effects.

Epidemiologists agree that heroin is the most under-reported drug in terms of usage and that any usage statistics are unreliable. Estimates range from 428,000 past-year users (National Household Survey, 1995) to 600,000 past week heroin users (Office of National Drug Control Policy). On the other hand, some experts estimate that as many as 2 to 3 million people in the United States use heroin recreationally. In 1980 the average bag of street heroin was 4% pure; the average bag today is 40% pure and can be as pure as 70%. Increased purity results in snorting and smoking rather than injecting.

Heroin use in the state has risen sharply over the last decade, particularly among young men ages 18-24, who are buying cheaper and purer forms of the drug.

**Cocaine & Crack Cocaine** (AKA: coke, snow, nose candy, flake, blow, big C, lady white, snowbirds, (crack only) rock, freebase, Manhattan marble)

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Cocaine is a drug extracted from the leaves of the coca plant. It is a potent brain stimulant and one of the most powerfully addictive drugs. Cocaine is distributed on the street in two main forms: cocaine hydrochloride is a white crystalline powder that can be snorted or dissolved in water and injected; and "crack" is cocaine hydrochloride that has been processed with ammonia or sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) and water into a freebase cocaine. These chips, chunks, or rocks can be smoked.

Cocaine may be used occasionally, daily, or in a variety of compulsive, repeated-use "binges." Regardless of how it is used, cocaine is highly addictive. Crack cocaine and injected cocaine reach the brain quickly and bring an intense and immediate high. Snorted cocaine produces a high more slowly.

Cocaine can produce a surge in energy, a feeling of intense pleasure, and increased confidence. The effects of powder cocaine last about 20 minutes, while the effects of "crack" last about 12 minutes. Heavy use of cocaine may produce hallucinations, paranoia, aggression, insomnia, and depression. Cocaine's effects are short lived, and once the drug leaves the brain, the user experiences a "coke crash" that includes depression, irritability, and fatigue; and long term effects include heart problems, respiratory problems, sleep and appetite problems, and harm to developing children if used by a pregnant woman.

## Designer Drugs

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Designer drugs are a class of drugs often associated with "raves." Designer drugs are modifications of restricted drugs, made by underground chemists in order to create street drugs that are not specifically listed as controlled (i.e., restricted) substances by the Drug Enforcement Administration. Changing the molecular structure of an existing drug or drugs to create a new substance, like Ecstasy, creates a designer drug. The street names of designer drugs vary according to time, place, and manufacturer. Because unlicensed and untrained amateurs create designer drugs in clandestine laboratories, they can be extremely dangerous. In many cases, the designer drugs are more dangerous and more potent than the original drug.

The pharmaceutical drug, fentanyl, was originally created for anesthesia during surgeries. Designer drugs derived from fentanyl are extremely potent and have a strong potential for overdose. They have been associated with hundreds of unintentional deaths in the United States. They are also short lived, about 30 to 90 minutes. Increasingly the drug is sniffed or smoked, in part to avoid getting HIV via infected needles. The respiratory paralysis that may occur is so sudden after drug administration that often victims who injected the drug are found with the needle still in their arm.

## OxyContin

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OxyContin (oxycodone HCl controlled-release) is the brand name for an opioid analgesic - a narcotic. Oxycodone is the narcotic ingredient found in Percocet (oxycodone and acetaminophen) and Percodan (oxycodone and aspirin). OxyContin is used to treat pain that is associated with arthritis, lower back conditions, injuries, and cancer. OxyContin is available by prescription only. It is approved for the treatment of moderate to severe pain that requires treatment for more than a few days.

Oxycontin abusers remove the sustained-release coating to get a rush of euphoria similar to heroin. They chew the tabs...crush them for snorting...or boil the powder for injection. The most serious risk associated with opioids, including OxyContin, is respiratory depression. Common opioid side effects are constipation, nausea, sedation, dizziness, vomiting, headache, dry mouth, sweating, and weakness. OxyContin is

oxycodone in a sustained release form and that is why the tablet should not be broken. Taking broken, chewed, or crushed tablets could lead to the rapid release and absorption of a potentially toxic dose of oxycodone.

In 2001 and 2002, there was a surge in robberies of pharmacies carrying OxyContin in Massachusetts. There is so much money to make with OxyContin, that stealing and selling the drug has become irresistible to dealers and addicts who can get their hands on it. As a result, many pharmacies in the area have stopped stocking the drug in order to deter robbers.

# MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION

*Vandalism, or malicious destruction of property, includes tire-slashing, window-smashing, spray-painting, and myriad other crimes in which someone's property is willfully and maliciously damaged. It is the most commonly reported crime in Cambridge, yet we suspect that vandalism is one of the most underreported crimes; residents and businesses frequently ignore "minor" incidents of vandalism and graffiti*

**806 reported in the first nine months of 2002 • 709 reported in the first nine months of 2003**

Neighborhood	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q. 2001	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q. 2002	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q. 2003	Destruction Act	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q. 2002	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q. 2003
East Cambridge	86	104	95	Car Window	158	165
MIT	8	6	12	Car (Other)	173	129
Inman/Harrington	59	48	53	Attempted Theft	47	34
Area 4	97	88	76	Pinstriping	61	65
Cambridgeport	90	105	111	Tire Slashing	94	94
Mid-Cambridge	82	102	66	Business Window	37	52
Riverside	74	71	52	Business (Other)	35	34
Agassiz	24	19	10	House Window	58	32
Peabody	74	91	57	Residence (Other)	24	52
West Cambridge	78	47	59	Graffiti	110	50
North Cambridge	96	91	76	Miscellaneous	9	2
Highlands	8	21	22			
Strawberry Hill	26	13	20			

Incidents of malicious destruction, or "vandalism," decreased by almost one hundred incidents in the first nine months of 2003. Many neighborhoods, such as Mid-Cambridge and Peabody, experienced a significant decrease in incidents compared to their normal totals. These decreases can be attributed to the sharp decline in incidents of graffiti around the City.

The malicious destruction total is often fueled by spree of incidents committed in one night in a concentrated geographic area by the same suspect(s). Several sprees of incidents were reported in the first nine months of 2003. The following is a review of those incidents:

- During the first weekend in January, nine incidents of malicious destruction were reported in the Cambridgeport neighborhood. Six out of the nine incidents involved the smashing of car windows. The remaining three incidents involved two smashed windows at area businesses and one smashed house window. It is suspected that the same suspect committed each incident with a BB gun.

- On January 7<sup>th</sup>, an unknown suspect smashed six car windows and four business windows in East Cambridge. The damage in this spree was also committed by a BB gun and the cars targeted were all sport utility vehicles.
- On January 15<sup>th</sup>, an unknown suspect slashed the tires of five vehicles parked on Kelley Street in the Peabody neighborhood.
- On April 13<sup>th</sup>, between 9:50 p.m. and 10:20 p.m., an unknown suspect slashed the tires on four cars parked on Elm Street in the Area 4 neighborhood.
- On a weekend in late May, eleven incidents of tire slashings and two incidents of pinstripping were reported in the Mid-Cambridge neighborhood. All of the vehicles targeted were sport utility vehicles.
- Between July 12<sup>th</sup> and July 14<sup>th</sup>, eight vehicles parked on Columbia Street in the Area 4 neighborhood had their tires slashed. Makes and models targeted varied.

So far this year, the number of graffiti incidents in the City has been cut in half. This is partly due to the new graffiti hotline, which allows residents to confidentially report incidents of graffiti. These calls are forwarded to the appropriate agency or property owner for removal and to the Police Department for investigation. To report any incidents of graffiti, please call (617) 349-INFO.

# FRAUD

*The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting System does not include fraud, false pretenses, forgery, embezzlement, and confidence games among larceny. Yet in many cases, fraud is a much more serious crime than theft. Victims of check forgery and "con" games stand to lose thousands of dollars. Often added to this loss is the personal humiliation that accompanies being "duped" by a "con man." The confidence game crook, a particularly crafty breed of criminal who has no qualms with deceiving his victims face-to-face, expects (often correctly) that his victim's embarrassment will deter him or her from reporting the crime to the police*

## 367 reported in the first nine months of 2002 • 339 reported in the first nine months of 2003

In the first nine months of 2003 there were 340 incidents of fraud and forgery reported in Cambridge, compared with 367 during the first nine months of 2002. Specific crimes categorized as fraud are reviewed below.

- **Counterfeiting:** During the first nine months of 2003 there were seven reports of counterfeiting in Cambridge. Five of the seven incidents of counterfeiting occurred in April and May. Three incidents involved the passing of fake \$100 bills at area retail establishments and four involved the passing of fake \$20 and \$10 bills at area restaurants and bars.

- **Application:** Two incidents of forged applications were reported. One incident involved a man who successfully opened five accounts at Sears, charging a computer, a camera, and jewelry. The second involved two suspects applying for student loans with an unknown victim's name.

- **Bad Check:** "Bad" checks are written on insufficient funds or closed accounts. The Cambridge Police took fifteen reports for this crime in the first nine months of 2003.

Crime	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q. 2002	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q. 2003
<b>Counterfeiting</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Forgery/Uttering</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>248</b>
Application	2	2
Bad Check	27	15
Forged Check	44	59
ATM/Credit Card	160	159
Other	4	12
<b>Embezzlement</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Con Games</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>20</b>
Big Carrot	8	4
Utility Impostor/ House Work	1	3
Pigeon Drop	7	3
Charity	6	0
Psychic	3	2
Miscellaneous	7	8
<b>Identity Theft</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>62</b>

- **Forged Check:** Fifty-nine crimes involved the use of a lost or stolen check, with the offender forging the victim's signature.
- **ATM/Credit Card Fraud:** One hundred and fifty-nine incidents of the use of a lost or stolen credit or ATM card were reported in the first nine months of 2003. This crime is becoming more popular with the proliferation of "check cards." The Galleria is a hot spot for this crime.
- **Embezzlement:** Embezzlement involves a situation in which an employee takes advantage of their position for their own financial gain, re-diverting company funds or property to themselves. The first incident reported this year involved an employee of a security company who "hired" her boyfriend. The employee's boyfriend never showed up to the job, but collected over \$100,000 in paychecks. The second involved an employee at the Galleria who was "selling" merchandise for free to her friends and making false returns. The third incident involved an employee of a medical practice who was in charge of posting payments to the practice, which she instead diverted to her own private bank account.
- **"Con" Games:** There were twenty swindles, con games or flim flams in the first nine months of 2003. The types of flim flams reported this year were similar to last year with the exception of three incidents of individuals disappearing with money paid for services never performed. The same Kingston man committed two of the incidents. The first occurred when the man was hired to do some work for a local bookstore, was given a deposit for the work, but never showed up to actually do the work. The second occurred when the man offered to do work for a real estate company, was paid a large sum of money, but again never showed up to do the work. "Big Carrot" scams, charity scams, and "Pigeon Drop" scams are all down so far this year.

# SEX OFFENSES

*Sex Offenses refers to six crimes of a sexual nature: prostitution and solicitation, indecent assault, indecent exposure, peeping and spying, annoying & accosting, and obscene telephone calls. Rape is not include because it is a Part I crime.*

**87 reported in the first nine months of 2002 • 68 reported in the first nine months of 2003**

## Annoying & Accosting

**13 reported in the first nine months of 2002 • 13 reported in the first nine months of 2003**

"Annoying and Accosting a Member of the Opposite Sex" is a form of criminal harassment. Generally, it involves a man repeatedly following, shouting, making off-color suggestions, hooting, repeatedly asking for a date, or otherwise harassing a woman. It happens most often on the street and in the workplace. Each report involves an individual situation; the crime is not subject to geographic patterns. Thirteen incidents have been reported in the first nine months of 2003.

Crime	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q. 2002	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q. 2003
Annoying & Accosting	13	13
Indecent Assault	24	8
Indecent Exposure	14	25
Obscene Phone Calls	11	11
Peeping & Spying	15	8
Prostitution & Solicitation	10	3

## Indecent Assault

**24 reported in the first nine months of 2002 • 8 reported in the first nine months of 2003**

Indecent assault is the unwanted touching of a person by another in a private area or with sexual overtones. In most cases the victim knows the offender. Any incident where force or injury occurs would be considered an aggravated assault rather than an indecent assault. In the first nine months, only two incidents occurred between strangers. The two incidents do not seem related. Two of the incidents were domestic in nature and four were committed by acquaintances.

## Indecent Exposure

**14 reported in the first nine months of 2002 • 25 reported in the first nine months of 2003**

Indecent exposure often involves homeless or inebriated individuals who expose themselves in order to relieve themselves, couples engaging in sexual acts in public, or individuals who expose themselves and/or touch themselves in front of members of the public. Only one of the twenty-five incidents reported occurred in the first three months of 2003. The total rose sharply during the second quarter due to a series of reports

involving an older man exposing and touching himself in public. Two arrests were made in connection to these incidents.

### **Peeping & Spying**

**15 reported in the first nine months of 2002 • 8 reported in the first nine months of 2003**

Peeping and spying occurs most often when offenders will peer through windows of houses or apartments, generally at night. Eight incidents were reported during the first nine months of 2003. The incidents were unrelated in nature, occurring mostly during the second quarter. All but one of the incidents occurred early in the week between a Sunday and Tuesday between 9:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m.

### **Prostitution & Soliciting Sex for a Fee**

**10 reported in the first nine months of 2002 • 3 reported in the first nine months of 2003**

Prostitution is commonly associated with "streetwalking," (prostitutes working the streets) but it also includes escort services, where a "john" (prostitutes' clients) will call and a prostitute will be sent to the "john's" location. All three arrests were the result of an undercover operation conducted by the Special Investigations Unit in which they called such an escort service who's employees were willing to provide sex for a fee.

## **OTHER PART II CRIMES**

*Under the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, any actual crime not recorded as a Part I Crime (Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny and Auto Theft) is a Part II Crime. The relative infrequency of patterns and trends among these crimes discourages detailed analysis.*

**1176 reported in the first nine months of 2003 • 1048 reported in the first nine months of 2003**

<b>Crime</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. 2002</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. 2003</b>
Disorderly Conduct	33	35
Drinking in Public	20	34
Extortion/Blackmail	1	1
Hit & Run Accidents	549	505
Kidnapping	5	2
Liquor Violations	2	1
OUI	34	46
Threatening	285	264
Traffic Arrests	203	80
Trespassing	39	67
Weapons Violations	5	13

### **Disorderly Conduct**

Police make an arrest for this crime when a person disrupts the peace enough to pose a danger. Examples include bar disputes, homeless altercations, and public shouting of profanity and threats. Twenty-seven of the thirty-five incidents resulted in an arrest.

### **Drinking in Public**

Seventy-one percent of the drinking in public incidents occurred in Central Square. Other locations where this activity is monitored include: Harvard, Inman, and the Porter Square T-area. These areas are targeted due to the nightlife they attract.

### **Extortion/Blackmail**

A rare crime, involving an offender taking money from a victim by threatening to do something other than use violence. Fortunately there was only one incident of extortion/blackmail in the second quarter of 2003. The one incident involved a man extorting money out of another man in exchange for the victim's safety.

### **Hit and Run Accidents**

Hit and run accidents slightly declined through the first three quarters of 2003 as compared to the same time period last year. The majority of incidents involved parked cars being hit by unknown suspects. Fourteen incidents involved pedestrians being struck.

### **Kidnapping**

There were two reported kidnapping incidents in Cambridge during the first nine months of 2003. The first involved a Cambridgeport resident being abducted on the street near her residence by an acquaintance. In the second incident, a domestic dispute turned ugly when the suspect who has weekend custody of his child refused to return the victim upon completion of his visitation rights.

### **Liquor Violations**

Liquor violations generally involve minors drinking, though it can also include the sale of liquor to a minor, or the unlicensed sale of liquor. There has only been one liquor violation so far this year.

### **Operating Under the Influence (OUI)**

Out of the forty-six OUI arrests that took place during the first three quarters of 2003, fifty-seven percent occurred during the hours of 10pm to 3am. Special attention is given to Harvard, Porter and Central Squares during these high activity hours.

### **Threatening**

A self-explanatory crime that often arises in domestic disputes, arguments between acquaintances and co-workers, school fights, and in other environments.

### **Traffic Arrests**

The average traffic stop for speeding, running a red light, or related offenses results in only a warning or citation. Some traffic offenses, however, are arrestable crimes: driving to endanger, driving after suspension or revocation, possession of a counterfeit inspection sticker, and attaching false license plates are all examples. Such arrests are often made during routine traffic stops after the police officer learns of the operator's license suspension or revocation. Traffic arrests decreased dramatically over the first nine months of 2003 when compared with the same period in 2002.

### **Trespassing**

Arrests for trespassing are generally made at establishments where the offender has been previously warned not to enter. Often, the same offender is arrested multiple times. Property owned by MIT has received the most trespassing violations through the third quarter of 2003. A majority of the individuals arrested for the crime of trespassing are homeless.

### **Weapons Violations**

There were thirteen weapons violations reported so far in 2003. Four of the incidents involved arrests of persons with concealed weapons in their possession. Another incident involved an unexploded Japanese grenade that was discovered in the basement of a Peabody neighborhood apartment, which was disposed of by the bomb squad. The other eight were various incidents. In order to be considered a "weapons violation", the weapon in question cannot be directed at a person or property; otherwise, the incident would be recorded as an assault or act of malicious destruction.

